



United States House Committee on

Ways & Means

CHAIRMAN JASON SMITH

H.R. 1843 – The Telehealth Expansion Act of 2023

Telehealth Increases Patient Access to Health Care

Telehealth enables patients and families to have greater access to primary care as well as specialty, behavioral, and mental health services – especially for those living in rural areas with health care workforce shortages.

- 91% of patients reported telehealth made it easier to get the care they needed.
- 84% of patients believe they should have the option to receive telehealth.
- A recent study found the highest use of telehealth was among low-income individuals.

“First Dollar Coverage”

- 56% of employers offer employees high-deductible health plans (HDHPs).
 - \$1,500 annual deductible for individuals, \$3,000 for family coverage.
- “First dollar coverage” allows employers to pay for certain low-cost, high-value health care services *before* an individual reaches their deductible.

“First Dollar Coverage” for Telehealth Appointments

Ways and Means Republicans led efforts to allow employers to offer “first dollar coverage” for telehealth appointments during the pandemic. Congress has extended this flexibility through 2024, but many employers want to make this benefit permanent.

- 96% of employers offering high-deductible health plans (HDPS) utilized “first dollar coverage” for telehealth appointments under this policy.
- 84% of employers used this flexibility to offer care for substance use disorder.
- 76% of employers want to make this flexible benefit permanent.

H.R. 1843

- Permanently extends the option to provide “first dollar coverage” telehealth flexibilities for employers offering HDHPs, increasing employee access to innovative care delivery.